



Birds of Aruba



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Steelpan at 7pm



Local Art Display



Cultural Show at 8pm

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Former Jan. 6 prosecutor warns Trump's pardons could encourage future political violence

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Romano spent more than 17 years at the Justice Department, eventually becoming a supervisor on the team that would prosecute more than 1,500 people charged in the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The moment he watched the largest investigation in department history get wiped away with the stroke of a pen on President Donald Trump's first day back in the White House, Romano knew he had to leave.

"I knew on January 20th, when the pardons were announced, that I needed to find my way out," Romano said in an interview with The Associated Press weeks after his resignation from the Justice Department. "It would be untenable for me to stay, given the pardons and given the false narratives that were being spread about January 6."

Now, Romano says he fears Trump's decision to pardon even the most violent rioters whom his own vice president once said "obviously" shouldn't be pardoned could embolden right-wing extremists and encourage future political violence. "The way that the pardons have been received by the January 6th defendants



Michael Romano, former Jan. 6 prosecutor, speaks during an interview, Thursday, April 24, 2025, in Washington.

and by other right-wing extremists, as I understand it, is to recognize that if you support the president and if you commit violence in support of the president, that he might insulate you from the consequences, that he might protect you from the criminal justice system," Romano said. "And so that might encourage people to commit these sort of acts." Romano is among dozens of Justice Department lawyers who have resigned, been pushed out or fired in the

weeks since Trump's new leadership has taken over and begun making sweeping changes to align the law enforcement agency with the priorities of the Republican president whom the department once prosecuted. Trump's return to the White House has ushered in a dizzying change for many in the Justice Department, but perhaps few have felt it more than the lawyers who spent years working on the largest-scale serious attack on the Capitol since the war

of 1812.

Romano joined the Justice Department in 2007 straight out of law school, and was working in the section in Washington that handles public corruption cases on Jan. 6, 2021. He recalled watching the riot unfold on television, and quickly deciding he wanted to help with the prosecution of what he described as a "crime of historic proportions."

Trump's pardons cemented the president's yearslong campaign to rewrite the

history of the Jan. 6 attack. While vying to return to the White House, Trump repeatedly downplayed the violence that left more than 100 police officers injured, and lauded the rioters as patriots and hostages whom he contended were unfairly persecuted by the Justice Department for their political beliefs. The scope of Trump's clemency hours after the inauguration came as a surprise to many, considering the president had suggested in the weeks prior that instead of blanket pardons, he would look at the Jan. 6 defendants on a case-by-case basis. Trump's proclamation described the prosecution as "a grave national injustice" and declared that the pardons would begin "a process of national reconciliation." Trump's pardons led to the release from prison of the leaders of far-right extremist groups convicted of orchestrating violent plots to stop the peaceful transfer of power as well as rioters convicted of brutal attacks on police — many of whose crimes were captured on camera and broadcast on live TV. Trump has defended his pardons, saying the sentences handed down for actions that day were "ridiculous and excessive" and that "these are people who actually love our country." □

Disability-rights arguments grow heated at Supreme Court, though sweeping ruling appears unlikely

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A disability-rights case at the



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Supreme Court grew unusually heated on Monday, including accusations of lying and references to one side's position being a potential "five-alarm fire."

The appeal comes from a teenage girl with a rare form of epilepsy whose family says some courts have made it too hard to sue public schools that fail to make sure students get what they need to learn.

Her family appealed to the Supreme Court after lower courts blocked their discrimination case despite findings that her Minnesota school hadn't done enough to ac-

commodate her.

Their attorney, Roman Martinez, said the district's position had shifted to a potential "five-alarm fire" for the disability-rights community. Instead of defending the lower-court decisions that set a different legal standard to sue schools, they argued that all claims over accommodations for people with disabilities should be held to the higher same standard. The school district's lawyer, Lisa Blatt, pushed back on the idea that their arguments had changed. "They are adding words to our mouth. We never said you

should have a double regime," she said.

At the insistence of Justice Neil Gorsuch, she withdrew the allegation that the other side had lied but held firm to the contention that disability-rights claims should be held to a higher legal standard.

The justices appeared skeptical of that argument, with Justice Amy Coney Barrett calling it a "sea change" and questioning whether any lower courts had adopted a similar view.

A decision in the case is expected by the end of June. □

Job cuts delay Pentagon plans to expand work to prevent sex assaults and suicides

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Personnel cuts across the Defense Department will delay plans to hire at least 1,000 more civilians to help prevent sexual assault, suicides and behavior problems within the military, senior defense officials said. But they insist that crucial programs aimed at addressing sexual misconduct and providing help for victims are so far not affected. The officials told The Associated Press that plans to have about 2,500 personnel in place to do this prevention work throughout the military services, combatant commands, ships and bases by fiscal year 2028 have been slowed due to the hiring freeze and cuts. But they said they are looking to spread out the roughly 1,400 people they have been able to hire to date and try to fill gaps as best they can until the additional staff can be hired. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel decisions. Spurred by pressure for budget and staff cuts, they said they are looking for efficiencies to ensure this prevention workforce is the right size and that tax dollars are being spent well. Their comments come as two senators have written



Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, left, walks with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., to the Senate chamber at the Capitol, Jan. 22, 2020, in Washington.

to Pentagon leaders expressing deep concerns that sexual assault prevention and response programs may be targeted for cuts or elimination. In a letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and the leaders of the military services, Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said they worry about the "mere possibility of significant alterations or termination" of programs addressing sexual assaults and harassment. They urged Hegseth to ensure that victims of such misconduct will be sup-

ported, offenders held accountable and no changes will be made to reduce the Defense Department's services. "Even minor reductions risk compromising decades of progress toward ending sexual abuse and harassment in the Department," the senators said in the letter obtained by The AP. "Prompt action is essential to reinforcing victims' belief in the words of their leadership." The two lawmakers have long fought for improved programs to address sexual assault in the military and

more aggressive prosecution of assailants. Budget and personnel cuts ordered by the Trump administration and billionaire ally Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency have slashed thousands of jobs across the government workforce and services. The defense officials acknowledged that hiring delays will hurt efforts aimed at a wider array of problems, ranging from suicides to abusive behavior and other bad conduct. Plans for a prevention workforce to address that broader spectrum of issues

began in 2022, when sexual assaults and suicides were spiking. Officials concluded that they needed a more integrated effort to work with service members who were experiencing pressures tied to work, deployment, home, money and more that could lead to violence.

The defense officials also said that military programs to combat sexual assault were part of a recent wider Pentagon program review to make sure that federal regulations were updated to include the changes made in the past several years. Those included changes to sexual assault prosecutions so that decisions are made by independent prosecutors.

In a statement, the Pentagon noted that the regulations creating the sexual assault and prevention officers were reviewed to ensure they complied with new government efficiency guidance. It said all of the sexual assault-related policies remain in effect.

"The Department remains committed to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program's goals of providing service members with recovery assistance, ensuring that offenders are held accountable, and ensuring mission readiness," the statement said. □

Associated Press

The EPA is allowing the sale of cheaper, higher-ethanol E15 gasoline across the U.S. this summer

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Consumers across the U.S. still will be able to buy higher-ethanol blend E15 gasoline this summer, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday, saving them a little money at the pump but risking potential damage to the air and water. The emergency waiver issued by the EPA prevents retailers in most states from having to stop selling E15 gasoline on May 1. While the waiver remains in effect only through May 20, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin signaled that he plans to keep issuing waivers through Sept. 15, the date when the federal government typically would allow E15 sales in all states again. Most gasoline sold across the U.S. is blend-

ed with 10% ethanol, but 15% blends are becoming increasingly common, particularly in the Midwest, where most of the nation's corn is grown. E15 gasoline generally costs at least 10 cents less a gallon than E10 gasoline, but the EPA had previously prohibited its sale during the summer driving season over concerns that its use during the summer driving season could increase smog. But the EPA has relaxed restrictions on E15, granting a series of short-term waivers in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to allow its sale nationwide through the summer. And last year, the EPA issued a rule allowing year-round sales in eight Midwestern states Iowa, usually the nation's top corn producer, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. □



New pumps at Rich Bohnen's service station at 60th and Penn Ave. S. in Minneapolis are seen in a Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 photo.

Associated Press

The Memphis church pivotal in Martin Luther King Jr.'s final days suffers a devastating fire

By **ADRIAN SAINZ and TRAVIS LOLLER**

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A historic Black church in downtown Memphis that was the organizing point for Martin Luther King Jr.'s final campaign in 1968 caught fire early Monday morning and suffered significant damage. "The inside is a total loss, but we're still somewhat hopeful that some of the facade will be able to be left standing," Memphis Fire Chief Gina Sweat said at a Monday morning news conference. She said the fire was reported at 1:39 a.m. through a commercial alarm service. Local fire and police officers are investigating the cause, along with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is "way too early" to know anything more, Sweat said. King was drawn to Memphis in 1968 to support some 1,300 predominantly Black sanitation workers who went on strike to protest inhumane treatment. Two workers had been crushed in a garbage compactor in 1964, but the faulty equipment had not been replaced. On Feb. 1, 1968, two more men, Echol Cole, 36, and Robert Walker, 30, were crushed in the compactor. The two men were contract workers, so they did not qualify for workmen's



A bronze and steel sculpture honoring a sanitation workers strike that brought the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to Memphis in 1968 was dedicated on April 5, 2018, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

compensation, and had no life insurance. Workers wanted to unionize, and fought for higher pay and safer working conditions. City officials declared the strike illegal and arrested scores of strikers and protesters. Before the fire, the Clayborn Temple was undergoing a \$25 million restoration that was slated for completion in 2026. The initiative aims to preserve the architectural and historical integrity of the

Romanesque revival church and includes the restoration of a 3,000-pipe grand organ. At the same time, the project seeks to help revitalize the local neighborhood with a museum, cultural programming and community outreach, according to a news release on the renovation. "This morning we woke up to heartbreaking news: a devastating fire has ravaged one of our city's greatest treasures, Clayborn Temple,"

Memphis Mayor Paul Young wrote in a statement posted to social media. "Clayborn is more than a historic building. It is sacred ground. It is the beating heart of the civil rights movement, a symbol of struggle, hope, and triumph that belongs not just to Memphis but to the world." Just south of Beale Street, Clayborn Temple was built in 1892 as the Second Presbyterian Church and originally served an all-white

congregation. In 1949, the building was sold to an African Methodist Episcopal congregation and renamed Clayborn Temple, according to the release.

Memphis sanitation workers started striking in February 1968 after Cole and Walker were killed on the job. The Clayborn Temple hosted nightly meetings and the campaign's iconic "I AM A MAN" posters were made in its basement. The temple was also a staging point for marches to City Hall. They included a March 28, 1968, march led by King, a rally that turned violent when police and protesters clashed on the iconic Beale Street, and a 16-year-old was killed. When marchers retreated to the temple, police fired tear gas inside. People broke some of the stained-glass windows to escape. King promised to lead a second, peaceful march in Memphis, but he was killed by a sniper while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4.

After King was assassinated and the strike ended with the workers securing a pay raise, the church's influence waned. It fell into disrepair and was vacant for years before the renovation effort that took off in 2017 thanks to a \$400,000 grant from the National Park Service. □

Fighter jet slips off the hangar deck of a US aircraft carrier in the Red Sea, one minor injury



Aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman is moored near Split, Croatia, Feb. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An F/A-18 fighter jet slipped off the hangar deck of an aircraft carrier deployed to the Middle East, as sailors were towing the aircraft into place in the hangar bay of the USS Harry S. Truman on Monday, the Navy said. The crew members who were in the pilot seat of the Super Hornet and on the small towing tractor both jumped out before the jet and the tug went into the Red Sea. According to a defense official, the sailor who jumped from the aircraft sustained a minor injury. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel details. "The F/A-18E was actively under tow in the hangar bay when the move crew lost control of the aircraft. The aircraft and tow tractor were lost overboard," the Navy

said in a statement. The jet was part of Strike Fighter Squadron 136.

Fighter jets are routinely towed around the hangar deck to park them where they are needed for any flight operations or other work. It is unclear whether there will be an effort to recover the jet, which costs about \$60 million. The incident is under investigation.

The Truman has been deployed to the Middle East for months and recently has been involved in stepped-up military operations against the Yemen-based Houthi rebels. U.S. Central Command has said that the military has conducted daily strikes, which have been done by fighter jets, bombers, ships and drones.

The Truman's deployment has already been extended once by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth by about a month. □

Israel's domestic security chief says he will step down in June, defusing battle with Netanyahu

By NATALIE MELZER

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The head of Israel's internal security service says he will resign in June over the failure of his agency to warn of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks defusing an escalating battle with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar announced his resignation Monday, saying he will formally step down June 15. "After years on many fronts, one night, on the southern front, the skies came down," Bar said during remarks at a memorial event for fallen Shin Bet soldiers. "All systems collapsed. The Shin Bet also failed to give a warning."

Netanyahu moved to fire Bar last month over what he said was a crisis of confidence surrounding Hamas' attack. But the step sparked an uproar in Israel because the agency is investigating ties between the Israeli leader's office and Qatar a key mediator between Hamas and Israel over the war in Gaza.

Critics said the firing was tainted by a conflict of interest meant to derail that probe, a charge Netanyahu denies. Israel's Supreme Court froze



Ronen Bar, chief of Israel's domestic Shin Bet security agency, attends a ceremony marking Memorial Day for fallen soldiers of Israel's wars and victims of attacks at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery, May 13, 2024.

the firing following multiple legal challenges against it and called on the sides to reach a compromise. In his address, Bar said the court case "is not about my personal case but about the independence of the next heads of the Shin Bet." He said the agency's "proper functioning is of inestimable importance to the security of the state and to Israeli democracy. I have been fighting for this

for the past month, and this week the necessary infrastructure was laid before the High Court of Justice. I hope that the ruling that will be given will ensure that the Shin Bet will be preserved as such, over time and without fear." Bar filed a document with the Supreme Court last week that accused Netanyahu of trying to exploit the power of the agency for political and personal gain.

Among the accusations, he claimed Netanyahu wanted him to spy on anti-government protesters and pressured him to effectively scuttle Netanyahu's corruption trial by claiming the prime minister could not testify due to security concerns. Netanyahu called the accusations lies and responded with his own accusations against Bar. Netanyahu frequently complains of a "deep state" of

civil servants and unelected judges that he says are out to topple him. Good governance groups say the Shin Bet chief is meant to be an independent figure and fear that Bar's ouster will clear the way for Netanyahu to place a loyalist into the sensitive post.

The Shin Bet is responsible for monitoring Palestinian militant groups, and Bar has previously acknowledged his agency's failures in preventing Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

Speaking at the memorial, Bar said everyone who "failed to provide a security blanket that day must bow our heads in humility before the murdered, the dead, the wounded, the kidnapped and their families and act accordingly. Everyone."

The Qatar investigation is the latest in a series of scandals to hit Netanyahu. The Shin Bet is looking into allegations that close advisers worked as paid consultants for Qatar an Arab country that does not have full diplomatic relations with Israel while also working for the prime minister. Netanyahu, who is on trial for a series of corruption charges, has not been directly implicated in the scandal. □

China and Philippines use their flags to stake out competing claims in the South China Sea

By KEN MORITSUGU and TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The Philippines on Monday rejected China's claim to a group of three sandbars in the South China Sea, after recent displays by both sides of their national flags on the uninhabited outcroppings. The back and forth over Sandy Cay is the latest flare-up in a long-running dispute over territory in the hotly contested South China Sea, which China claims almost in its entirety.

The flare-up began last week when a Chinese state-owned newspaper posted exclusive photos of coast guard officers on Sandy Cay from mid-April, including one of them holding up a Chinese flag.

Three days later, a joint Philippines coast guard, navy and maritime police team headed on Sunday to the three sandbars and posed for a photo holding up their

national flag.

"This operation reflects the unwavering dedication and commitment of the Philippine Government to uphold the country's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," a government statement said. It was posted on X with a video and photos, including one showing team members holding up the Philippine flag.

The Chinese coast guard described the Philippine landing as "illegal" and said that Chinese officers had gone ashore "to conduct on-site verification and enforcement measures." It didn't specify what those steps entailed.

The sandbars are in the Spratly islands between Philippine-occupied Thitu Island and Subi Reef, which China has transformed into a base with a military-grade runway and buildings with communications facilities. □



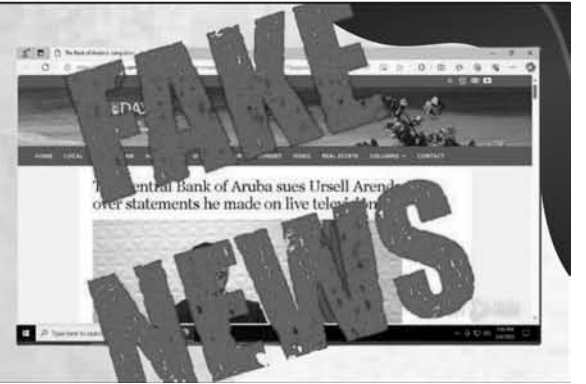
In this photo provided by the National Task Force West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS), Philippine inter-agency members which included Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police - Maritime Group, hold the Philippine flag as they visit Sandy Cay 2 at the South China Sea on Sunday April 27, 2025.

Associated Press

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Major power outage in Spain and Portugal knocks out subway networks, traffic lights and ATMs

By RENATA BRITO and BARRY HATTON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

A blackout brought much of Spain and Portugal to a standstill Monday, halting subway and railway trains, cutting phone service and shutting down traffic lights and ATMs for millions of people across the Iberian Peninsula.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said that a problem in the European grid that he described as a "strong oscillation" was behind the outage, but that the cause was still being determined. The Spanish leader asked the public to refrain from speculation and said no theory about the cause of the outage had been discarded.

Spanish power distributor Red Eléctrica said that restoring power fully to the country and neighboring Portugal could take 6-10 hours.

By mid-afternoon, voltage was progressively being restored in the north, south and west of the peninsula, the company said. The company declined to speculate on the causes of the huge blackout.

Sánchez thanked the governments of France and Morocco, where energy was being pulled from to restore power to north and southern Spain.

The Portuguese National Cybersecurity Center issued a statement saying there was no sign the outage was due to a cyberattack.

Eduardo Prieto, head of operations at Red Eléctrica, told journalists it was unprecedented, calling the event "exceptional and extraordinary."

Spanish and Portuguese



People walk inside a hospital during a nationwide power outage in Pamplona, northern Spain, Monday, April 28, 2025.

capitals among affected areas

The outage hit across Spain and Portugal, including their capitals, Madrid and Lisbon. Offices closed and traffic was snarled as traffic lights stopped working. It was not possible to make calls on some mobile phone networks, though some apps were working. In Barcelona, residents walked into stores searching for battery-powered radios and civilians directed traffic at junctions along the Gran Via avenue that cuts through the city.

The countries have a combined population of about 60 million people. It was not immediately clear how many were affected. It is rare to have such a widespread outage across the Iberian Peninsula. Spain's Canary Islands, Balearic Islands and the territories of Ceuta and Melilla, located across the Mediterranean in Africa, were not impact-

ed by the outage.

Authorities said the cause was not immediately known, though one Portuguese official said the problem appeared to be with the electricity distribution network in Spain.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez convened an extraordinary meeting of Spain's National Security Council and visited Red Eléctrica to follow efforts at restoring grid operations. Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro said he has spoken several times to Sánchez and expected power to be restored by the end of the day. The Portuguese Cabinet convened an emergency meeting at the prime minister's residence.

Portugal's government said the outage appeared to stem from problems outside the country, an official told national news agency Lusa.

"It looks like it was a prob-

lem with the distribution network, apparently in Spain. It's still being ascertained," Cabinet Minister Leitão Amaro was quoted as saying.

Portuguese distributor E-Redes said the outage was due to "a problem with the European electricity system," according to Portuguese newspaper Expresso. The company said it was compelled to cut power in specific areas to stabilize the network, according to Expresso.

The blackout is the second serious European power outage in less than six weeks after a March 20 fire shut down Heathrow Airport in the U.K. and comes as authorities across Europe gird against sabotage backed by Russia.

While the causes of the Iberian blackout were still being investigated, Teresa Ribera, European Commission executive vice president in charge of pro-

moting clean energy, told Spanish journalists in Brussels there were no indications of a cyber attack in Monday's power outage, which she described as "one of the most serious episodes recorded in Europe in recent times."

The outage hit just after midday

Spain's public broadcaster RTVE said a major power outage hit several regions of the country just after midday local time, leaving its newsroom, Spain's parliament in Madrid and subway stations across the country without power.

A graph on Spain's electricity network website showing demand across the country indicated a steep drop around 12:15 p.m. from 27,500 megawatts to near 15,000 megawatts.

Spanish airports were operating on backup electrical systems and some flights were delayed, according to Aena, the company that runs 56 airports in Spain including Madrid and Barcelona.

In Lisbon, terminals closed and throngs of tourists sat outside in the sun and the shade waiting for news about their flights.

"We haven't seen any plane arriving or departing in the 50 minutes we've been waiting here," Dutch tourist Marc Brandsma told The Associated Press.

Train services in both countries ground to a halt. Video aired on Spanish television showed people evacuating metro stations in Madrid and empty stations with trains stopped in Barcelona. Spain's Transportation Minister Oscar Puente posted on X that it wouldn't be possible to restart trains later Monday, even if the power returned. □

A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad



(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among

the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city

center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is



located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gor-

geous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foun-



dation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundation's Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful

things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.



Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male)
Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love

for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to

guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
Mr. Michael Hausman from Union, New Jersey, United States.
Ms. Marouska Heyliger, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honor-

ee, presented Mr. Hausman with gifts, and thanked Mr. Hausman for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the Mr. Hausman were:

- Aruba is a relaxing destination
- Aruba's sun
- Aruba's people
- Aruba's weather
- Aruba's ocean

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Mr. Hausman for his continued visits to the “One Happy Island”. □

How Aruban beaches came to be!



(Oranjestad)—We’ve talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there’s a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba’s beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast

line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it’s shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to sink to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?
Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba



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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Julie Kent from Norton, Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Outstanding beaches- "Eagle Beach"
- Beautiful and consistent weather and sun with trade winds
- Exquisite cuisine choice from all over the world
- "The people of Aruba make us feel welcome, safe and happy"
- The experience of Tara/Bucuti, all encompassing "makes us want to return for more", "we book again before we leave"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Cas di Torto

ORANJESTAD - Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found

around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Vene-

zuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition. The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and para grass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white colour and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of



wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung. The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen

would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.



The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes,

as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites

within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find

these adobe houses.

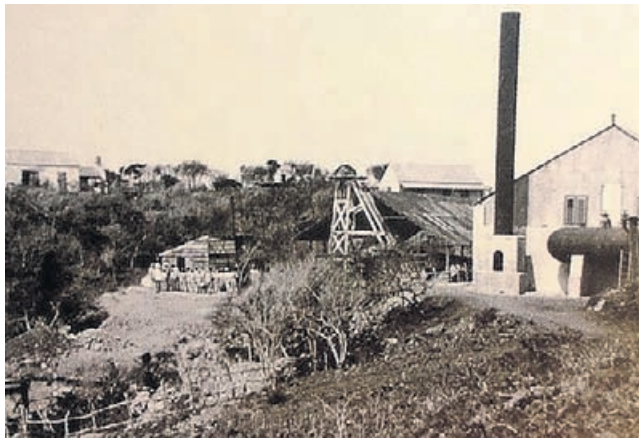
Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 15:30 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Flower girl, often
1 Coffee additive
6 Banquet
11 Reddish dye
12 Un-occupied
13 Use, as advice
14 Car count
15 Eye part
17 Summer sign
18 Leave quickly
19 Signing, for short
22 Pub staple
23 Small drum
24 Like some online videos
25 Draw closer to
27 Hotel feature
30 Central American capital
31 Clumsy one
32 Tick off
33 Soviet tyrant
35 Border
38 Key
39 Wild
- DOWN**
- 1 Rhythmic dance
2 React with horror
3 Main dish
4 Erelong
5 Like ogres, in folklore
6 Nourished
7 Moody music
8 Twin of Artemis
9 Flow
10 Holyfield rival
16 Ready for romance
20 Issuing from a source
21 Cardinal cap letters
24 Through
25 Top story
26 Turkey's capital
27 Pavlova's field
28 For each
29 Leased
30 Ticks off
34 Nepal setting
36 Ruin
37 Moose's kin

A	L	P	H	A		C	A	P	E	R
G	O	R	E	Y		A	L	A	M	O
E	X	I	L	E		W	A	R	M	S
		M	E	S	H		S	T	A	Y
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I	O	N		C	L	E	A	N	U	P
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E	X	P	L	O	I	T		P	I	E
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C	O	P	S	E		U	N	C	A	P
A	R	E	E	L		N	I	E	C	E
N	E	R	D	S		Y	A	L	T	A

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

WIR BMK MOVWVG QUDC M EMU
LMFQ. WIR BMK'C QUDC M
E O M K Z L M F Q. — H I U D
L D B I R O C

Cryptoquote: YOU CAN NEVER
GET A CUP OF TEA LARGE ENOUGH OR A BOOK
LONG ENOUGH TO SUIT ME — C.S. LEWIS

Cruise ship Schedule: April 22 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	22	CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	23	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	24	NORWEGIAN GEM	08.00	20.00	C	1
FRI	25	NORWEGIAN GETAWAY	11.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	27	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	11.59	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	29	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	30	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

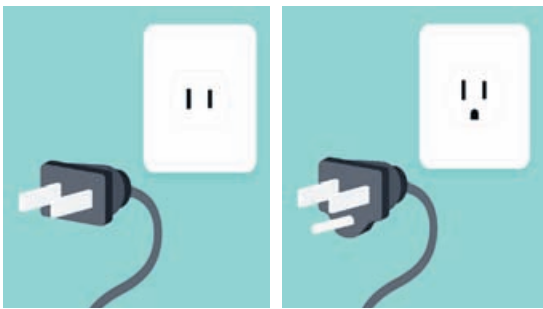
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



How to avoid credit card late fees after a court threw out a proposed cap



Several VISA and MASTER credit cards are shown in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

By **CORA LEWIS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Texas judge earlier this month threw out a federal rule that would have capped credit card late fees at \$8. The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau finalized the rule last year as part of the Biden administration's efforts to do away with what it called junk fees. It was paused by the courts before it could take effect. At the time, the CFPB estimated that American families would have saved more than \$10 billion in late fees annually had the fees been capped at \$8, significantly less than the \$32 average. Banks and industry groups argued that the rule didn't allow card issuers to charge fees high enough

to deter late payments and discourage repeat violations.

The Texas judge's ruling earlier this month came a day after a collection of major industry groups and the CFPB under President Donald Trump announced that they had reached an agreement to throw out the rule.

Here's what to know about credit card late fees:

What is the average credit card late fee?

The average late fee for major issuers has steadily ticked up since the 2010s, going from \$23 at the end of 2010 to \$32 in 2022, according to the CFPB. WalletHub, which tracks financial data, found the average late fee in 2025 to be \$30.50, with the maximum \$41.

A September 2023 Consumer Reports study estimated that 1 in 5 American adults, or about 52 million people, paid a credit card late fee in the previous year. People with lower incomes pay proportionately bigger fees, according to the CFPB, with the highest burden falling on communities of color and those living paycheck to paycheck.

How can consumers avoid the fees?

Enrolling in auto-pay for your credit cards can help you avoid making late payments, and there are some credit cards that don't charge late fees at all (though it's important to note that these cards may have other fee or penalty structures, or higher interest rates.)

Citi Simplicity and the Apple card do not currently charge late fees, and Discover offers a card that will automatically waive the first late fee. □

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Want wk 7 2bdrm pay \$55,000.
3 bdrm \$75,000.
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318343

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Gold season
2 BR Garden View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$12,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
Studio week # 18 room 1404
Contract expire : 2051
Price :\$ 7000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

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5 min drive to palm beach and eagle beach
3 BR 2 bath with 2 Apartments
Price :\$ 650,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Condo for sale

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Condo for sale

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Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel.582 1780

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto:Tel.584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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After 'The Idol,' Abel Tesfaye's new movie 'Hurry Up Tomorrow' brought 'joy back into filmmaking'

By **KRYSTA FAURIA**

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Abel Tesfaye has always known he wanted to pursue a career in cinema. He sees his meteoric rise to fame as one of today's biggest pop superstars under the moniker The Weeknd as a detour to make that happen.

Nearly two years after he made his acting debut with HBO's "The Idol," which he co-created with Sam Levinson, Tesfaye said his latest experimental musical film which also stars Jenna Ortega and Barry Keoghan "brought the joy back into filmmaking."

"Hurry Up Tomorrow," a Lionsgate release hitting theaters May 16, is a kind of companion piece to the final album of the same name released earlier this year in the artist's record-breaking trilogy.

Along with director Trey Edward Shults, Tesfaye, 35, spoke with The Associated Press about retiring The Weeknd, losing his voice onstage in 2022 and lessons learned from making "The Idol."

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How has cinema and long-form storytelling through film influenced you as an artist?

TESFAYE: Cinema, for me, it's always been my num-



This image released by Lionsgate shows Barry Keoghan as Lee, left, and Abel "The Weeknd" Tesfaye as Abel in a scene from "Hurry Up Tomorrow."

Associated Press

ber one passion. And then I happened to sing and make music and it kind of felt like a little detour, a little cheat code to kind of get into this.

I always wanted to make movies and I always want to make music with movies. You always kind of hear and see the DNA of cinema in my albums and my music videos, my performances and my stage. So it's always just been a part of me.

AP: You come in with this very vulnerable, personal

project, and you enlist Trey to make it. How did you guys navigate that and why did you trust him?

TESFAYE: Well, first and foremost, I was a fan of his work. So I knew that he was gonna, whatever I gave him, he's gonna make something incredible. But when we met, we just were kind of inseparable. We became really, really close friends and family. And the trust just came natural after that. It's like no one else can tell the story but Trey. So it was very easy for me.

SHULTS: For me too, it was like my first movie I made for \$30,000 with literal family members acting in it and friends in it. It was this beautiful, magical experience and I told myself going forward, doing bigger projects, I only wanna work with humans that I truly feel connected to and you feel that kismet good energy connection and when I met Abel, I felt that. And it was just natural and organic and he was a genuine fan and I could tell his genuine trust and like wanting

to embolden me and try to make this my own film. And I just got crazy inspired.

AP: Did you always see this as the third part in the trilogy?

TESFAYE: It was always the third part, yeah. I didn't know what I wanted to say at the time, but I knew I was making some sort of saga. But that was more just for myself. I kind of wanted to establish that I wanted to make something that can end a story. And lo and behold, something actually happened to me that I felt like, whatever I had in store, whatever plans I had prior, threw it out the window accused 110% on this story.

AP: How did what happened change your understanding of you as an artist? You said cinema has always been the goal. Do you feel like it kind of helped you see your priorities in some ways?

TESFAYE: Absolutely. I mean I was juggling a million things at the time, you know, and I was on tour, dealing with personal stuff as well. But that's happened before. I was able to still rely on my super power. You know, I can go on stage and it's this cathartic experience with the fans. I can shut my world off for an hour and a half, two hours and just lose myself in my performance. □

Autopsy confirms Gene Hackman died from heart disease, notes his Alzheimer's and prolonged fasting



Actor Gene Hackman arrives with his wife, Betsy Arakawa, for the 60th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., Jan. 19, 2003. Actor Gene Hackman arrives with his wife, Betsy Arakawa, for the 60th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., Jan. 19, 2003.

Associated Press

By **JACQUES BILLEAUD** and **MORGAN LEE**

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The main cause of Gene Hackman's death was heart disease, but he was also in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease and likely had not eaten for a long time, according to a new autopsy report.

The report documents the 95-year-old actor's poor heart health, noting he had experienced congestive heart failure, an aortic valve replacement and an irregular heart beat. He was given a pacemaker in April 2019.

Hackman's carbon monoxide concentration was less than 5% saturation, which is within the normal range. He tested negative for the hantavirus, which is a rare but potentially fatal disease spread by infected rodent droppings.

Authorities have said Hackman's wife, Betsy Arakawa, likely died Feb. 11 at home from hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. Her autopsy report hasn't yet been released.

A toxicology report says Hackman tested negative for alcohol and intoxicating drugs, but that he had a low concentration of acetone in his system that indicates prolonged fasting.

Hackman appeared to have outlived Arakawa at home by about a week, possibly unaware of his wife's death. Hackman's pacemaker showed an abnormal heart rhythm on Feb. 18 the day he likely died, according to the state's chief medical examiner. □

Kentucky Derby: How to watch, the favorites and what to expect in the 151st running of the race

By The Associated Press

The first Saturday in May means it's time for the 151st Kentucky Derby, America's longest continuously held sporting event.

Twenty horses stampeding 1 1/4 miles around Churchill Downs isn't just a race. It's 150,000 fans jammed under the Twin Spires for a fashion show mixed with an all-day party that is heavy on traditions like mint juleps, singing "My Old Kentucky Home" and a garland of red roses draped on the winner.

When is the Derby post time?

6:57 p.m. Eastern on Saturday.

What's the forecast?

Saturday's forecast is for a high around 68 degrees (20 Celsius) with sunny skies.

How to watch

Friday: Coverage runs from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern on USA Network and streaming on Peacock. The highlight is the 151st Kentucky Oaks for fillies with a post time of 5:51 p.m.

Saturday: Derby Day coverage begins at noon Eastern on USA Network and streaming on Peacock. NBC and Peacock have coverage from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Telemundo Deportes begins at 6:30 p.m. on Universo and streaming on the Telemundo app. All races at Churchill Downs except the Derby will be shown on FanDuel TV.

What to watch

A pre-race tradition is the walkover, when the horses are led from the stables to the paddock where they



Kentucky Derby entrant Coal Battle works out at Churchill Downs Monday, April 28, 2025, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

are saddled for the race. Some are cool and calm, others get fractious and sweaty. They walk on the track along the rail with fans yelling all the way. The riders emerge from the jockeys' room and walk to the paddock to meet their mounts.

Besides the sleek thoroughbreds, check out the crowd decked out in hats and fascinators, floral-print dresses and seersucker suits that make the Derby the world's most fashionable sporting event.

Who are the favorites?

Journalism was the 3-1 morning-line favorite. The Southern California-based colt is trained by Michael McCarthy and ridden by

Umberto Rispoli. Journalism will break from the No. 8 post, which has had nine winners, the last being Mage in 2023. He has won four races in a row. The morning-line favorite has won 18 times, the last was Justify in 2018.

Sovereignty was the early second choice at 5-1. The Florida Derby winner is trained by Hall of Famer Bill Mott and ridden by Junior Alvarado. He drew the No. 18 post, putting him outside most of the 20-horse field. Third choice on the morning line was Sandman at 6-1 odds.

The Arkansas Derby winner is trained by Mark Casse and ridden by Jose Ortiz. He will break from post 17,

which has never produced a winner.

Keep an eye on

Six-time Derby winner Bob Baffert is back after serving a three-year suspension by Churchill Downs.

He has 12-1 shot Rodriguez, who won the Wood Memorial with a front-running style, and is ridden by two-time Derby winner Mike Smith. Baffert's other horse is 20-1 long shot Citizen Bull, last year's 2-year-old champion. He drew the dreaded No. 1 post with Martin Garcia aboard. No horse has won from the inside post since 1986.

Hall of Famer trainer D. Wayne Lukas saddles his 51st Derby starter second-most ever with 30-1 shot

American Promise. He has four Derby victories and at 89, he would be the oldest trainer to win. The colt drew the No. 5 post, which has had the most Derby winners with 10.

Fun fact

While some of the owners, trainers and jockeys are the same from year to year, the horses never are. The Derby is for male and female 3-year-olds only, meaning a horse is eligible just once in its career. Only three fillies have won, the last was in 1988. **Celebrity connections**

The late country singer Toby Keith's Dream Walkin Farms is a part-owner of 30-1 shot Render Judgment.

Former Philadelphia Phillies star Jayson Werth, whose stable is Two Eight Racing in a nod to his old jersey number, is a co-owner of Flying Mohawk, also at 30-1.

Grammy-nominated singer Grace Potter performs the national anthem on Derby Day. Seven-time Olympic champion gymnast Simone Biles gives the "Riders' up!" call, signaling the jockeys to climb aboard.

What does the winner get?

For the second straight year, the Derby total purse is \$5 million, with the winning owner earning \$1.3 million and a gold trophy. Second place is worth \$1 million, with payouts down to fifth place.

The winning horse's breeding rights are likely to soar. The winning jockey typically receives 10% of the purse and a smaller trophy. □

Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese's return to college for WNBA preseason games to be shown on national TV

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese's return to college for WNBA preseason games will be two of a record four exhibition games shown on national TV. Clark will head back to Iowa for an exhibition between her Indiana Fever and the Brazilian national team on Sunday, a game airing on ESPN. The Fever's exhibition game against the Washington Mystics a day earlier will be on NBA TV.

Reese will lead the Chicago Sky back to her alma mater, LSU, on Friday to face the Brazilian team. Sky teammate Kamilla Cardoso played for that Brazilian team in February 2024, trying to help it qualify for the Paris Olympics. That game will be part of a doubleheader on ION. The WNBA will be showing all 15 of its preseason games either on national television or league pass. "We've seen the demand for WNBA content grow exponentially and we are meeting that demand by working with our broadcast partners and our teams to make a significant investment by making all 15 preseason games available to WNBA fans," Chief Growth Officer Colie Edison said. □



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) plays against the Dallas Wings in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

Team Penske turmoil at Talladega brings out defense of Cindric from ex Braves slugger Chipper Jones

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) —

If there's beef between teammates Austin Cindric and Joey Logano and none other than Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Chipper Jones is convinced there is then Team Penske has some work to do to smooth things over.

At the end of the second stage of Sunday's race at Talladega Superspeedway, Cindric didn't help Logano enough to Logano's liking and it allowed rival Toyota driver Bubba Wallace to win the stage and valuable bonus points that come with it. Logano launched into an expletive-laden rant on his team radio in which he seethed at fellow Ford driver Cindric.

"Way to go Austin," said Logano in the part suitable for print. "You just gave it to him. Gave a Toyota a stage win. Nice job. Way to go ... put that in the book." Cindric and Team Penske management seemed to understand. Jones was not so forgiving in a series of social media posts.

"Good teammates are hard to come by, Boss! Remember that one of us MFed u on national tv, when in all actuality, u did everything possible to keep



NASCAR Cup Series driver Austin Cindric celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Sunday, April 27, 2025, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press

from wrecking him," Jones wrote. "Hate to be #duces in the 'team' meeting on Monday. Some people are 'hooray for our team as long as I'm the star' as every team has them. Hendrick, RCR, JGR, Penske, etc. Sometimes karma is glorious." And, just in case "anyone is confused, lemme be clear," Jones wrote as he tagged Logano as the target of his ire. Jones, who grew up not far from Daytona International Speedway and apparently is a NASCAR fan, contin-

ued his rant by calling Logano "selfish" in another post, and celebrated in yet another when Logano was disqualified for failing post-race inspection.

At Team Penske, the reaction was more muted.

"I felt like I kind of just got pinched, was trying not to wreck the cars in front of me, including Joey. It was a messy end of the stage ... Joey could have probably done better, we let one slip there," Cindric said. "I can understand his frustration without kind of seeing

the whole picture. These are the types of things that when you're expecting someone to have your best interest, those are the challenges, right? We have a lot of meetings centered around that. I feel like it requires constant maintenance. It's not always pretty. The conversations aren't always easy.

"I do feel like as a team we do it better than most. I think that's something we'll definitely be talking about (Monday) as far as how to do it better, understand all

sides, be better for it."

Michael Nelson, named president of Team Penske's NASCAR program earlier this year when Cindric's father, Tim, relinquished some of his roles at the organization, thought the situation would be cleared up internally.

"It's just like a normal family," he said. "We have to go in and close the door when we're not in front of everybody else and work through the issues that we have. There was obviously some frustration there. Heat-of-the-moment situation, for sure. I think we've done a better job than most. It just shows you that there's still more work to do, that it's something you have to continually work on race after race."

As Cindric wore Talladega's traditional winner's wreath all around the track, he didn't seem bothered by any potential beef with NASCAR's only active three-time Cup Series champion. It's been tough going for Cindric, who won the Daytona 500 in his 2022 rookie season, went winless in 2023, won once last year and on Sunday snapped a 30-race losing streak and became the first Team Penske driver to win a race through the first 10 this season. □

Stephen Curry is voted the NBA's Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after making a 3-point basket during the second half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Houston Rockets in San Francisco, Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Curry picked up another NBA award Monday, being voted the Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year by his peers in the league.

Already a two-time NBA MVP and the league's career leader in 3-pointers, Curry was honored this time for his "selfless play, on- and off-court leadership as a mentor and role model to other NBA players, and commitment and dedication to team."

Curry has spent his entire 16-year career with the Golden State Warriors, helping them win four championships, and is one of the league's most popular players. He received 66 first-place votes and 1,257 total points to beat out Houston veteran center Steven Adams, who appeared on more ballots and finished with 46 first-place votes and 1,237 points. Jalen Brunson, the New York Knicks captain who won the

Clutch Player of the Year award, finished third.

A panel of league executives chose 12 finalists for the award and current players voted from the list.

The award, presented since 2013, is named for Jack Twyman and Maurice Stokes, who were teammates on the Rochester/Cincinnati Royals from 1955-58.

Stokes suffered a brain injury in the final game of the 1957-58 regular season, fell into a coma days later and became permanently paralyzed. Twyman became Stokes' legal guardian and advocate, and supported him for the rest of his life.

Curry also won the NBA's Sportsmanship Award in 2011.

The Rookie of the Year will be announced Tuesday and Most Improved Player on Wednesday. □